

**DRAFT MINUTES
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Holiday Inn Lansing South
6820 South Cedar Street
Lansing, Michigan
February 9, 2005**

Chairman Ranney called the meeting of the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 in Lansing, Michigan.

Members Present:

Dick Ranney, Chair
Glenn Moll, Vice Chair
Marlia Dielman
Jason Dinsmore

Staff Present:

Steve Kubisiak, Recreation and Trails Program Coordinator, Lansing
Lieutenant Creig Grey, Law Enforcement, Lansing
Richard Kennedy, Motorized Programs, Lansing
Deborah Apostol, Grants, Contracts and Customer Systems, Lansing
Jim Radabaugh, State Trail Coordinator, Lansing
Kathleen Campbell, Cadillac
Anna Sylvester, Parks and Recreation Bureau, Roscommon
Pete LundBorg, Parks and Recreation Bureau, Silver Lake State Park
Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, Lansing
Lynne Boyd, Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, Lansing

USDA Forest Service Staff Present:

Scott Haas, Huron-Manistee National Forest
Nick Schmelter, Huron Shores RD, Huron-Manistee

Minutes

Acknowledged Minutes of the November 10, 2004 ORV Trails Advisory Board Meeting.

Mr. Moll asked if a draft of the Off-Road Vehicle Guide will go out for public comment before it is published this spring. **Mr. Kubisiak** said the document will not go out for public review, but if anyone had comments or suggestions regarding content they could provide it to the Department and it would taken into consideration as the document is being revised.

Mr. Dinsmore made a motion, supported by Ms. Dielman to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2004 Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Plan Update – **Dr. Chuck Nelson, Associate Professor, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies, Michigan State University** presented a power-point presentation highlighting progress to-date on updating the ORV plan. He highlighted the DNR's mission, key issues, plan requirements and results of the trail maintenance and damage restoration workshops, public input meetings, and results of sheriff, county road commission and nationwide trail coordinator surveys. He highlighted findings of the 2004 trail and route assessment, illegal uses, conflicts and damage to public lands. A copy of the power-point

presentation will be posted on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr; click on recreation and camping then ORV/ATV.

Chairman Ranney thanked Dr. Nelson.

Chairman Ranney asked Mr. Kubisiak when the plan will be complete. **Mr. Kubisiak** said a draft Executive Summary and proposed actions are currently under review by Forest, Mineral and Fire Management. A preliminary draft will go through a Department wide review and then be presented to the ORV Board and posted on the DNR website for public comment in May. It is anticipated the plan will go to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) for information in August.

Safety Education Program Update – **Lt. Grey** reported that at the direction of the Management Resource Deputy an ORV safety education workgroup will be appointed. He distributed applications and noted the need to include ORV Board members, enthusiasts, parents, sheriffs, and to have appropriate geographical representation. The focus of the workgroup is to develop a training curriculum and identify any potential legislative or rule changes that may be needed to fit the new curriculum. The goal is to have a new program in place in 2006. Discussion ensued.

Lt. Grey announced Walt Mikula will retire in April and acknowledged his many years of service.

NEW BUSINESS

ORV Operation and Environmental Stewardship – **Anna Sylvester** provided background about the Natural Resources Leadership Academy and introduced Amy Spray of Public Sector Consultants. **Ms. Spray** outlined a proposal to increase public awareness of environmental stewardship principles and responsible ORV use. The components of the program include: development of booklet on environmental stewardship principles targeted at the ORV rider; a brochure for manufacturers; and completing at least one session on sustainable ORV use with a Michigan ORV safety class by May 1, 2005. The booklet will touch on five subjects related to ORV use and potential environmental impacts: 1) soils, trees, and vegetation 2) wildlife and endangered and invasive species 3) water resources and wetlands 4) noise and air pollution and 5) recreational land use. **Ms. Spray** requested the Board's endorsement and requested their assistance in networking with manufacturers and dealerships to help get the word out. She asked if they had any questions, or suggestions. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Ranney thanked Ms. Sylvester and Ms. Spray and said he thought they were right on target. **Ms. Spray** distributed the project proposal and related information.

Destination Trails – **Bill Chapin, Executive Director, Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan** presented a power point presentation on the Paiute ATV trail in central Utah. The trail system includes a 238 mile main trail, 550 miles of side trails and connects 16 communities in four counties. This trail system has national recognition and has tremendous economic impact on the local economies. He said many people who attended the public meetings last fall are looking for destination trails and that Michigan has great potential, especially in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula, and noted existing trail systems that already serve as destination trails.

Mr. Chapin answered questions and requested the Board's endorsement of an interconnected system of destination trails. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Ranney noted that at the five public meetings he attended there was local support for trail connectors to local communities.

Mr. Radabaugh noted the importance of advocacy groups and the need for local community partnerships when planning, developing and operating new trail systems.

Chairman Ranney thanked Mr. Chapin.

Grant Sponsor workshops – **Katie Campbell** announced the Department will be holding a series of workshops with ORV trail maintenance grant sponsors. The purpose of the meetings is to review trail maintenance standards and field procedures with club members who perform trail maintenance work.

The meetings will be held:

- Thursday, February 24, 2005, from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the Carl T. Johnson Center, Cadillac
- Thursday, March 3, 2005, from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, Roscommon
- Saturday, March 12, 2005, from 12:30 to 2:30pm at the Comfort Inn, Newberry

Annual Election of Officers – **Chairman Ranney** opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

Mr. Dinsmore nominated **Mr. Ranney** for Chairperson, supported by **Ms. Dielman**. Motion to close nominations and call for vote. Vote unanimously carried.

Chairman Ranney opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Chairman Ranney nominated **Mr. Moll** for Vice Chair, supported by **Ms. Dielman**. Motion to close nominations and call for vote. Vote unanimously carried.

Mr. Dinsmore asked about the status of filling the three vacancies on the Board.

Mr. Kubisiak reviewed the vacancies and said staff is working on preparing recommendations for the Director's consideration. He noted if persons are interested in serving on the Board to contact him and provide a letter of interest along with a short biography.

Ms. Koch noted the Department is currently revising policy regarding the process for appointments, and noted the importance of filling the vacancies on this Board.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Paul Mulder, Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association, Harrison said he is disappointed that not all of the trail analysts attend the ORV meetings. He believes they should attend all of the ORV Board meetings.

David DeLano, Bent Wheels CCC, Hazel Park asked when the ORV plan will be complete.

Terry Sullivan, Coldwater Michigan, spoke to the need for safety training and accident reporting. He believes ORV dealers have a responsibility to provide information to customers and they should not sell ATVs to under aged persons.

Tom Craig, ATV Off-Road Club of Michigan, Warren spoke to the need for safety education for all new riders coming into the sport. He believes the economic benefits of trails are being overlooked and spoke in support of destination trails. He asked if the Report All Poaching (RAP) line is the appropriate number to call to report an ORV violation. **Lt. Grey** confirmed that it is. The number is 1-800-292-7800. This is not an information line. **Mr. Craig** believes ORV license fees should be increased and thinks insurance costs are prohibitive to some clubs interested in doing trail maintenance. **Mr. Kubisiak** clarified that insurance costs are reimbursable through the grants program.

Brian Swubowski, Armada thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and said he recently brought his family into the sport. He said he and his family recently took a safety training class and commended Mr. Gilbert for putting on a good ATV safety training program. He spoke in support of a hands-on training program.

Brian Yinger, ATV Instructor, Dearborn asked if the 1-800 number for the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute was posted on the DNR website, and if not, why not. **Lt. Grey** said it is not posted on the website because it is not an approved curriculum.

Bill Gilbert, Michigan ATV Safety Association (MASA) questioned how the workgroup would operate. He read a statement and filed a complaint against a safety training instructor. **Chairman Ranney** asked Mr. Gilbert to provide his statement to Lt. Grey so he could follow-up and investigate his allegations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Next Meeting

May, 11, 2005, Lansing Holiday Inn-South, 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan

Public Present:

Thomas L. Nocella, atvoffroad.net
Bruce Suydan, ATV Off-Road Club of Michigan
Tom Craig, ATV Off-Road Club of Michigan
David DeLano, Bent Wheels Cycle Club
Terry Sullivan, Public
Bill Gilbert, Michigan ATV Safety Association
Brian Swbowski, Public
Steve Schultz, atvoffroad.net
Jeff Van Camp, ATV Off-Road Club of Michigan
Brian Yinger, ATV Instructor
Amy Spray, Public Sector Consultants

Bill Chapin, Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan (CCC)
Tom Gallagher, Michigan Recreation Vehicle Riders Association
Oswald Norris, atvoffroad.net
Pat Kinne, Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (GLFWDA)
Paul Milder, GLFWDA
Thomas Dunn, American Motorcycle Association (AMA), District 14
Steve Gradowski, GLFWDA
Bruce Menning, Michigan Trail Conservation
David Smith, Two Trackers Four Wheel Drive Club